

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 08815 121649Z

51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SPC-03

AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DRC-01 /145 W

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P 121556Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1484

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

S E C R E T CARACAS 8815

E.O. 11652: GDS DECLASS DEC 31, 1981

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CANADIAN ENERGY MINISTER

REF: OTTAWA 2439

1. SOURCE IN MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS HERE CONFIRMS THAT CANADIAN ENERGY MINISTER WILL ARRIVE CARACAS THIS WEEKEND FOR OIL TALKS. SOURCE SAYS MINISTRY IS PUZZLED AS TO WHY CANADA APPEARS TO BE MOVING IN TWO CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIONS ON OIL POLICY. ON ONE HAND, CANADA PROPOSES TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT BY SUPPLYING EASTERN CANADA WITH CANADIAN OIL. ON OTHER HAND, IT EXPRESSES INTEREST IN A PETROLEUM DEAL WITH VENEZUELA.
2. IF INTENT OF CANADIANS IS TO GET GUARANTEES FROM VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE OIL SUPPLIES TO EASTERN CANADA IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY, THIS COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. IN TWO DIFFERENT WAYS:

-- ANY SUCH DEAL WITH CANADA COULD APPARENTLY ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED BY VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT COMPULSORY MEASURES WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH NORMAL RIGHTS OF
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PAGE 02 CARACA 08815 121649Z

OIL COMPANIES TO SHIP THEIR OIL WHEREVER THEY FIND IT

MOST ADVANTAGEOUS;

-- ANY SUCH DEAL WOULD INTERFERE WITH DIVERSION OF
VENEZUELAN OIL TO U.S. MARKET IN CASE ARAB SUPPLIERS
TERMINATED SHIPMENTS TO U.S. SINCE VENEZUELAN OIL
INDUSTRY IS PRODUCING AT VERY NEAR TO CAPACITY,
DIVERSION OF VENEZUELAN OIL FROM OTHER MARKETS, WHICH
COULD PRESUMABLY GET INCREASED SUPPLIES FROM ARAB PRO-
DUCERS, WOULD SEEM TO BE MEANS OF COMPENSATING PARTIALLY
IF THERE SHOULD BE SLOWDOWN OR STOPPAGE OF ARAB OIL SUPPLIED TO
U.S.

MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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